

Did you know...



Sentences are made up of words, and words can be broken down into smaller parts. For example, some words rhyme, and some words begin with the same sound. Children who begin to notice these things are developing **phonological awareness**, which means being able to hear and work with the smaller sounds in a spoken language.

When you are having fun with words through word play, like rhyming or singing, you are helping develop this important early literacy skill.

Here's how...



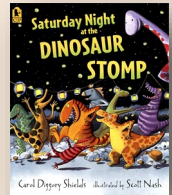
- ❖ Point out sentences where all the words begin with the same letter- The fat frog fell on Friday.
- ❖ Change the words in a nursery rhyme or song with silly or nonsense rhyming words. "Willaby wallaby woo, an elephant sat on you" becomes "Willaby, wallaby, wottle, an elephant sat on a bottle."
- ❖ Play "I Spy" games with rhyming words or beginning sounds. "I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with far (car)."
- ❖ Point out the little words that make up larger words, such as "hotdog" or "rainbow."
- ❖ Introduce "homonyms," words that sound alike but have a different meaning. They may be spelled differently (pair and pear) or the same (bat and bat).



Read



Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp, by Carol Diggory Shields



"They played in rhythm, they sang in rhyme, dinosaur music in dinosaur time!" This is a great read-aloud book with colorful and wacky illustrations. Here is a website that tells how to say the names of the dinosaurs:

www.kids-dinosaurs.com

Carol Diggory Shields has written several books that help kids play with words:

The Bugliest Bug

Food Fight!

Wombat Walkabout

Choose Books



Types of books that help your child play with words...

Rhyming books

Dr. Seuss books

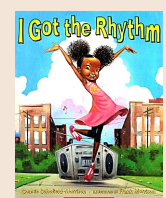
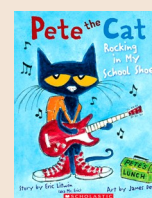
Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme books

Books that illustrate a familiar song

Books with a rhythm or beat

Books with animal noises

Books that have repeating words or sounds



Talk



Research shows us that the more we talk with children, the more words they add to their “vocabulary banks.” Children who know and understand thousands of rich words will have an easier time learning to read. Here is an example:

Meg is hipple when she roffs with her mom.

A child could sound out the words “hipple” and “roffs” and read the sentence correctly; however, if the child has never heard those words, she will have a difficult time knowing what the sentence means.

As you talk with your child, ask her questions, and help her use lots of describing words.

Write



Help your child write the first letter of his name, then make it into a picture of a dinosaur or monster.

Sing



Dino Pokey

(To the tune of “The Hokey Pokey”)

You put your claws in,
You take your claws out,
You put your claws in
And you scratch them all about.
You do the Dino Pokey
And you turn yourself around.
That's what it's all about!

Additional verses:

You put your feet in... stomp them all about.
You put your horns in... scratch them all about.
You put your teeth in...chomp them all about.
You put your tail in...swing it all about.

~ From the King County Library System

<https://kcls.org/content/Hokey-Pokey/>



Play



Dinosaur Rhyme

With tiny brains (*fist to head*)
And great big tails (*sweep hands behind self*)
Dinosaurs can be as big as whales!
(*hand creating large path low to high above head*)
They never giggle (*pretend to laugh*)
They never weep (*pretend to cry*)
They just eat – chomp chomp
(*bend forward and make chewing motion*)
And eat- chomp chomp
And eat – chomp chomp
And sleep!
(*rest head on hands, snore as loud as you can!*)

From the Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy

[www.storyblocks.org/project/
dinosaur-rhyme/](http://www.storyblocks.org/project/dinosaur-rhyme/)

At your library...



Don't have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!